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The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : I think even the hon. Deputy Chairman is not entitled to put a hypothetical question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Yes, it is a hypothetical question.

Dr. V. K. JOHN : May I take it that the Government do not make any distinction or difference between one person and another person whatever be the mother-tongue, provided he is a permanent resident of this State?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : It needs no assurance. That is the policy of the Government. Nobody need stress it.

Sri V. V. RAMASWAMI : பிரெஸிடென்ஸி கல்லூரியில் சைகாலஜி ஆனர்ஸ் பிரிவிற்கு ஆந்திர நாட்டுக்கு இரண்டு ஸ்தானங்கள் கொடுக்கப் பட்டிருக்கின்றன. இந்த ஆண்டுக்குள் அது பூர்த்தியாகிவிடுமா, அல்லது மேலும் நீடித்துக் கொடுக்கப்படுமா என்று கேட்கிறேன்.

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM: நான் இதற்கு உடனடியாகப் பதில் சொல்லக்கூடிய நிலைமையில் இல்லை. தனிக் கேள்வி போட்டால், பதில் சொல்கிறேன்.

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister enlighten us on the proposals before the Government for the opening of more Medical Colleges to meet the demand of the candidates in this State?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : It does not arise out of the main question. But I may say that the proposal has not yet been finalized.

Leave rules for persons afflicted by leprosy.

3-10 p.m. * 15 Q.—Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether rules have been framed for grant of leave to Government servants and persons in service under local boards who are afflicted by leprosy while in service and, if so, what they are; and

(*b*) whether similar rules have been made applicable to teachers in aided schools?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes.

A non-permanent Government servant in superior or last grade service can ordinarily be granted extraordinary leave without allowances only for a period of six months, but if it is for the treatment of leprosy, he can be granted twenty-four months of such leave without allowances.

A Government servant in the last grade service is ordinarily entitled to leave salary equal to half his pay while on unearned leave on medical certificate. If, however, the unearned leave on medical certificate is for the treatment of leprosy, he may be granted leave salary equal to full pay for six months. What applies to Government servants is applicable to local board servants also.

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(b) They are not ordinarily eligible for such concessions unless the terms of their contract with their management provide for the grant of such concessions.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Have the Government come across any case of a local body in this State having refused such leave to its employees?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not have the information with me.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Government kindly consider any appeal from such employees if the leave had been already refused by the local body and appeals from the heirs of the deceased employees for compensation for the leave refused?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: If an appeal is provided for, certainly it will be considered. But I do not expect the hon. Member to put questions in respect of any individual case pending before the Government.

Provident Fund benefit to teachers of the former Pudukkottai State.

* 16 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether teachers of the former Pudukkottai State now merged with the Tiruchirappalli District Board Service are eligible to continue their subscription to the Provident Fund?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: Yes, Sir, if they had elected to come under the District Board Provident Fund Scheme maintained by the Tiruchirappalli District Board.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Is it a fact that the total amount to the credit of those employees in the State Fund is now deposited with the District Board and that the employees have been denied the opportunity of joining the District Board Provident Fund Scheme?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: The employees were asked to choose the District Board Provident Fund Scheme if they wished to join it. Otherwise, they could still continue under the pensionary scheme. And in the latter case, persons who came from Pudukkottai were shown some consideration. If they choose the District Board Provident Fund Scheme, then they will be treated exactly as other District Board employees are treated.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: May I know whether those who prefer the State pension scheme will be allowed to contribute to the Provident Fund without the management's contribution but with interest on their contribution?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: As I have already said, the consideration is shown only in respect of those who wish to continue under the pensionary scheme and who have come from Pudukkottai.